

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

BOEHLERT, Sherwood L. (Republican)  
Representative, 23rd District, New York  
Elected 1982 to 98th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Utica, New York - September 28, 1936  
Home: New Hartford, New York  
Marital status: Married (Marianne) - 4 children  
Religion: Roman Catholic  
Education: Utica College, BA, 1961  
Military: Army, 1956-58

Profession: Congressional aide; county government official

Political: Ran unsuccessfully for the US House in 1972. Oneida County Exec, 1979-82.

Congressional aide to NY Reps Alexander Pirnie (R) and his successor, Donald Mitchell (R) (15 yrs). Succeeded Rep Mitchell, who retired, easily winning the general election. Reelected in 2000 with 60% of the vote and in 2002 with 71%.

Rep Boehlert is a moderate Republican with an independent streak. He is characterized as an "innovative legislator." His main focus is on technology, particularly the field of robotics.

In the 106th Congress, appointed as a member of the US Group of the North Atlantic Assembly. During debate on a supplemental, complained about the high percentage of US participation in the NATO operation in Bosnia. Believed the President should seek financial reimbursement from our allies. Asserted that this Nation would not walk away from our responsibilities, but the burden is not ours exclusively. Expressed concern that short-sighted spending cuts would leave our military behind in the information revolution. Won approval for federal and state funding for changing former base in Rome, NY, into a research facility for the Air Force. Sponsored H.R. 1300, dealing with hazardous waste clean-up.

In the 107th Congress, during consideration of the VA/HUD appns conference report, commented that he particularly appreciated the committee's commitment to new space technology and its effort to bridge the gap between NASA and the Air Force. "By directing a modest amount of funding into the Air Force Research Lab, the bill encourages NASA and the Air Force to pool their efforts on technologies that will benefit both agencies and the American people. Space based radar technology, for example, is vital to our national security, but also has immense applications in Earth science." In July 2001 hailed a Nat'l Research Council report calling for greater investment by the AF in science and technology. Said the panel's findings represent a strong endorsement of the research performed at the Air Force Research Lab. Became a public sector member of the CSIS Council on the Future of Technology and Public Policy. Said the tragedy of September 11 has awakened the Nation to a new world of potential threats. Remarked that one compelling need is to improve the security of our Nation's computer systems and the uncountable government services on which they depend. Suggested that the National Science Foundation's budget is not commensurate with the breadth and importance of its mission. Announced that the Air Force's Information Directorate in Rome would receive \$130 million for FY 03; noted that he played in role in securing the extra \$25 million over the request.

Additional: Public relations manager, Wyandotte Chemical Corp, 1961-64 (CQ, 8Jan83, P.38).

Elected President of the Ripon Society, a nationwide group of moderate Republicans, in Apr93.  
AF Bases: Rome Lab (Griffiss AFB closed 30Sep95)

## COMMITTEES

SCIENCE – Chairman (Ex officio member of all subcommittees)

SELECT INTELLIGENCE – Subcs on: HUMINT, Analysis & Counterintelligence – VChmn;  
Technical & Tactical Intelligence - VChmn

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SELECT HOMELAND SECURITY – Subc on Cybersecurity, Science & Research & Development